

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 PM-04 IGA-02 DODE-00 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 /071 W
----- 005275

R 211541Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2326

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

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DEPT PASS AFR/SFWA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP, EAID, UV

SUBJ: PAN AFRICAN AIR INDUSTRIES (PAAI)

REF: STATE 229545

1. IN RECENT CONVERSATION WITH AMBASSADOR, FINANCE
MINISTER KALMOGO REFERRED TO VISIT BY MS RAZI OF PAAI
(OUAGA 2734). HE SAID THAT HE DID NOT AGREE WITH URGENCY
DESCRIBED BY MS RAZI ESPECIALLY SINCE THERE WAS AS
YET NO INFRASTRUCTURE FOR THIS OPERATION AND GOUV HAS
NOT IN POSITION TO PROVIDE BACK UP NECESSARY IF PAAI WAS
TO BEGIN OPERATION IN JANUARY 1977. FURTHERMORE, GOUV
WAS IN MUCH BETTER POSITION THAT PAAI TO OBTAIN SEEDS,
FERTILIZER AND PESTICIDES ON FAVORABLE TERMS. HE
INTIMATED THAT HE HAD TURNED DOWN MS RAZI'S PLEA FOR
DEPOSIT OF DOLLARS TWO MILLION IN CHEMICAL BANK IN PARIS.

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2. KALMOGO ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT TYPE OF ACTIVITIES

ENVISAGED BY PAAI COULD BE OF GREAT IMPORTANCE TO
UPPER VOLTA'S DEVELOPMENT PROVIDED IT WAS PROPERLY
PLANNED AND EXECUTED. BECAUSE GROWING SEASON FOR
VEGETABLES IN UPPER VOLTA CORRESPONDS TO SLACK SEASON IN
EUROPE, THERE WERE GREAT POSSIBILITIES FOR EXPORT BY AIR.
HOWEVER, BECAUSE OF UTA AND AIR AFRIQUE "STRANGLEHOLD",
RATE FOR AIR FREIGHT WERE NOW PROHIBITIVE. PAAI COULD
CHANGE ALL THAT BUT HE BELIEVED IT HAD TO BE A JOINT
VENTURE BETWEEN GOUV AND PAAI.

3. RE PARA 6 REFTEL, KALMOGO SAID THAT THE PURCHASE
OF A C-130 IN THE UNITED STATES WAS DESIGNED TO PROVIDE
GOUV WITH A POTENTIAL FOR AIR FREIGHT OPERATIONS,
EXPECIALLY EXPORTS OF VEGETABLES AND MEATS TO EUROPE AND
THE COAST. IT WAS UNFORTUNATE THAT, FOR BUDGETARY REASONS,
TRASACTION WAS BEING PRESENTED AS MILITARY SALE.
EVENTUALLY, IF GOUV WAS ABLE TO OBTAIN THE PLANE AND THE
TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, AND IF PAAI GOT OFF THE GROUND, GOUV MIGHT
PLEASE ITS C-130 TO PAAI. AT ANY RATE, HE SAID, IT MIGHT BE
POSSIBLE TO PURHCASE THE C-130 THROUGH AIR VOLTA, THE
GOUV-OWNED CIVILIAN FIRLINE, IN WHICH CASE USG MIGHT FIND IT
EASEIR TO APPROVE THE SALE AND PROVIDE TECHNICAL
ASSISTANCE.

4. EMBASSY AND CDO WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S
AND AID/W'S REACTION TO POSSIBILITY MENTIONED BY
KALMOGO IN LAST SENTENCE PARA 3 ABOVE.

GRAHAM

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SUPPLEMENTAL AIRLINES, TRANSPORT AIRCRAFT, LOANS, AIRCRAFT SALES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 SEP 1976
Decapton Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decapton Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: BoyleJA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976OUAGAD02908
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760357-0912
From: OUAGADOUGOU
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760937/aaaabfnk.tel
Line Count: 89
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 229545
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: BoyleJA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23 APR 2004 by CollinP0>; APPROVED <12 AUG 2004 by BoyleJA>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PAN AFRICAN AIR INDUSTRIES (PAAI)
TAGS: BEXP, EAID, UV, PAAI
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006